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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/576,187	05/23/2000	Leonard R. Hoffman	99CR073/KE	3964

7590 11/22/2002

Rockwell Collins Inc
Attention Kyle Epple
Intellectual Property Department
400 Collins Road NE M/S 124-323
Cedar Rapids, IA 52498

EXAMINER

ROBINSON, GRETA LEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/576,187

Applicant(s)

HOFFMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Greta L. Robinson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The following reference Implementation of a Version Manager on an Object Oriented Database Management System cited on form PTO 1449 has not been considered because it has not been properly cited, a date of publication is not documented for consideration by the Office. The reference has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. Applicant is asked to submit a new form PTO-1449 with adequate information (i.e. priority date and publication information) for consideration by the examiner.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the object-oriented database management system, predetermined configuration items, context characteristics, workspace and ODBMS user intervention must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

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A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to because descriptive textual labels are needed to properly understand the invention. See MPEP 37 CFR 1.84(o). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Applicant's **extensive use of symbols** and/or acronyms makes comprehension of the disclosure confusing. For example, note reference to prior art references on page 3 cited by Park

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et al.. The notation, "Park 1" and "Park 2" described in the specification is not standard. The notation CP was defined as meaning change package on page 10; but the term check point is also used on page 12. CP generally stands for control point or control program, the use of the abbreviated term on page 14 through 15 is confusing.

The following **descriptive text is not clear** with respect to enablement:

page 14 last paragraph, which states, "Publication in this case is a trivial copy". What is being published? And, what does "trivial copy" mean? It is not clear as to what is being claimed or stated.

At **page 9** lines 15-18, a definition is given for versions, it states that they are copies that have a few relationship between them for management purposes. This **definition is vague**. Also note at **page 11** lines 8-11, reference is made to change logs as being "neglected".

The descriptive language appears to **lack antecedent basis** at **page 15**. The connection between the described elements with respect to the corresponding drawings is not clear.

Regarding claims 1 and 20, the limitation "predetermined configuration item disposed in said object-oriented database", has not been adequately described or shown in the drawings. The limitations of claims 9 and 10 entail "creating" steps via a user intervention, but the disclosure does not appear to state what the user intervention comprises.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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8. Claims 1-8, 9-14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1 and 20, the following language is vague: “a copy of each object which directly and by ownership through another owner, owns said predetermined configuration item, is also disposed in the object-oriented database management system” [see claim 1 lines 11-13; see claim 20 lines 9-10]. The phrase appears incomplete. Claims 2-8 are rejected based on dependency.

Regarding claim 9, the following limitation is vague: “via an ODBMS user intervention” [see claim 9 lines 7-8]. Claims 10-14 are rejected based on dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1, 9, 15, 16 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parrish et al. US Patent 5,659,735.

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Regarding claim 1, Parrish et al. teaches a system for assisting a user with configuration management comprising: “an object-oriented database management system containing a plurality of configuration items” ... “having the ability for making changes” ... “a shared ownership” [see: abstract; figures 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9; col. 3 lines 30-56; col. 4 lines 20-55; col. 7 lines 18-65; col. 15 lines 20-67; and col. 19 lines 30-65].

Regarding claim 9: a method of managing a configuration of an engineering design, comprising the steps of ... creating, via an ODBMS user intervention, a newer version of one of said plurality of pre-existing objects ... a sharing relationship ... [see: figures 6, 7, and 8; col. Col. 8 lines 45-65; col. 11 lines 37-61; and col. 17 lines 40-67].

The limitations of claims 15, 16 and 20 have been addressed above in claims 1 and 9; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kudo et al. US Patent 5,956,719

Yoshizawa et al. US Patent 5,734,899

Leymann et al. US Patent 6,122,633

Parrish et al. US Patent 5,553,282

Marlin et al. US Patent 5,680,615

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Delenberg et al. US Patent 6,108,669

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta Robinson whose telephone number is (703)308-7565. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM. If any attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene, can be reached at (703) 305-9790.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703)746-7239, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE")

Or: (703)746-5657, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED"
or "DRAFT").

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-9600.



GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Greta Robinson

Primary Examiner

November 18, 2002